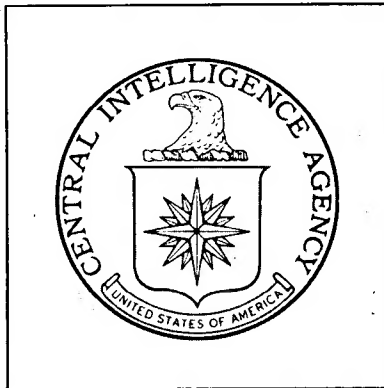


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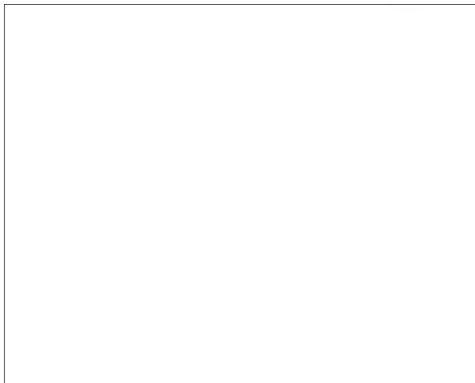
**DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE**

**Industrial Facilities
(Non-Military)**

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

Sunchon Chemical Plant

Sunchon, North Korea



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RCS 13/0238/69

DATE MARCH 1969

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Directorate of Intelligence
Imagery Analysis Service

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|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME | | COUNTRY | |
| Sunchon Chemical Plant | | KN | |
| UTM COORDINATES | GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES | COMIREX NO. | WAC-PIC NO. |
| 51SYD541666 | 39-25-10N 125-56-35E | None | None |
| MAP REFERENCE | | | |
| 15th RTS. USATC Series 200, Sheet M0380-3HL, 5th edition, Feb 68, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET) | | | |
| LATEST IMAGERY USED | | NEGATION DATE (If required) | |
| | | Not Required | |

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ABSTRACT

The Sunchon Chemical Plant was complete and in operation prior to June 1962, when it was first studied on photography. Several minor support buildings were added between 1962 and 1967, but no significant changes were made. Since 1967, the limestone handling facilities have been greatly expanded. Calcium carbide and calcium cyanamide are produced at this plant.

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INTRODUCTION

The Sunchon Chemical Plant is located at the eastern edge of the city of Sunchon on the west bank of the Taedong Gang (River). A collocated transformer substation supplies the plant with large amounts of electricity.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

The plant is irregular in shape, has maximum dimensions of 2,960 by 1,450 feet, and occupies 100 acres. The installation is partially walled. The river and hills form natural boundaries around the unwalled portion. The plant is served by a good road network and a railroad spur from the Pyongyang to Kaechon main rail line.

The primary products of the plant are calcium carbide and calcium cyanamide. Coke and quicklime are heated to a very high temperature in the electric furnaces to produce calcium carbide. The calcium cyanamide is produced by reacting nitrogen with calcium carbide.

When first studied on photography of June 1962, the plant was complete and in operation. Dust and straining on the buildings and the general appearance of the plant indicated that it had been in operation for some time. Several minor support buildings were added between June 1962 and December 1967, but no significant construction was noted during this time. Since December 1967, the limestone handling facilities have been expanded, and a new limestone handling building has been added at the end of the rail spurs.

Smoke from the stack of the rotary kiln building and fluctuations in the number of rail cars in the plant indicated that the plant was in operation on all coverage between June 1962 and March 1968. Although the plant did not appear to be in operation in May 1968, smoke coming from the calcium carbide furnaces on September 1968 coverage indicated that production had resumed.

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Maps and Charts

15th RTS. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0380-3HL, 5th edition,
February 1968, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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Requirement

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